**Crop loss in Karnataka by hailstorm**

3339. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that crops worth crores of rupees were lost owing to hailstorm during January-February, 2002, in Karnataka and seven districts suffering heavily;

(b) whether the Karnataka Government has requested the Central Government for additional assistance under Natural Calamity Relief Fund;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the amount, if any, released for the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The Government of Karnataka informed that the hailstorm affected 7 districts, causing damage to cropped area in about 0.32 lakh ha., with an estimated loss of Rs. 27.50 crore. The entire Central share of Rs. 58.72 crore under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2001-02 was released to the State for undertaking necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities including hailstorm. In response to the Memorandum submitted by the State Government seeking assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), an Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the State recently for assessment of the situation. The question of assistance from the National Fund is under process.

**Pay anomalies in ICAR**

3340. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of scientists in ICAR are made to suffer due to large-scale fixation-releated anomalies in the pay of seniors *vis-a-vis* jouniors, resulting in a sense of frustration amongst the senior scientists;

(b) if so, in what manner Government propose to rectify anomalies in pay-scales of seniors *vs.* juniors in ICAR; and

(c) what decision Government have taken, so far, in implementing pay-scales under UGC package plan, which are acceptable to the ICAR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The ICAR has adopted